20. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said oscillator also provides means for compensating for stress birefringence.

21. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 20 wherein said oscillator comprises a dual-pump-cavity configuration with a 90 degree rotator between the pump cavities.

22. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 20 wherein said oscillator further comprises a porro prism.

23. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said oscillator also provides means for generating a single-longitudinal-mode laser pulse.

24. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 23 wherein said means for generating a single-longitudinal-mode is a seed laser.

25. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 23 wherein said means for generating said single-longitudinal-mode laser pulse is an etalon.

26. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said oscillator contains an aperture with an opening of less than 5 mm.

27. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said oscillator utilizes a gradient reflector.

28. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said pulse sharpening device is an electro-optical pulse slicer.

29. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said pulse sharpening device [is used to modify] modifies both the leading edge and the trailing edge of said laser pulse.

30. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said pulse sharpening device is a phase conjugation device.

31. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said amplifying means is a series of Nd:glass amplifiers.

32. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 31 wherein said amplifying means further comprises a means for birefringence compensation of the laser pulse as said laser pulse passes through said amplifying means.

33. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 32 wherein said means for birefringence compensation is a 90 degree rotator.

34. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said amplifying means is by multi-pass amplification.

35. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said multi-pass amplification comprises a phase conjugation device and a means for birefringence compensation.

36. (Amended) The [method] apparatus of Claim 35 wherein said means for birefringence compensation is a 90 degree rotator.

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 stand pending and rejected or objected to in the present case.